

**Remarks:**

1. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiura et al. [US 5,160,116]
2. Claims 12-17 are allowed.
3. Claims 2-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
  - a. Re claim 2, all of the limitations of claim 2 have been added to claim 1. Claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance. Original claim 2 has been canceled.
  - b. Re claim 3, claim 3 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1.
  - c. Re claim 4, claim 4 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1.
  - d. Re claim 5, because it depends from claim 4, for at least the reasons cited in point 3(c) it is now in condition for allowance.
  - e. Re claim 6, because it depends from claim 5, for at least the reasons cited in point 3(d), it is now in condition for allowance.
  - f. Re claim 7, claim 7 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1.
  - g. Re claim 8, because it depends from claim 7, for at least the reasons cited in point 3(f) it is now in condition for allowance.
  - h. Re claim 9, because it depends from claim 7, for at least the reasons cited in point 3(f) it is now in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/784,051

Amdt. Dated 04-JAN-2005

Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2004

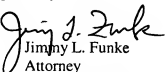
- i. Re claim 10, because it depends from claim 7, for at least the reasons cited in point 3(f) it is now in condition for allowance.
- j. Re claim 11, because it depends from amended claim 1, for at least the reasons cited in point 3(a) it is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have followed the Examiner's recommendations and believe that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's detailed consideration of the application and look forward to a timely Notice of Allowance.

Although no fees are believed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0831 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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